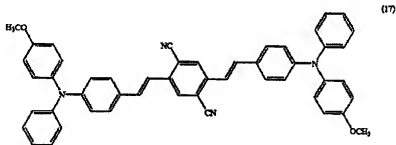


REMARKS

Claims 29-35, 37-38, 49-53 and 59-61 were active and under consideration. Claims 1-28, 36, 39-48 and 54-58 have been previously cancelled. By means of the present amendment, claims 29 and 49 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 29-35, 37-38, 49-53 and 59-61 remain at issue.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 29-35, 37-38, 49-53 and 56-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kijima et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,633,122. In particular, the rejection pointed out to the following compound disclosed by the cited reference:



which was deemed to warrant the above rejection as a positional isomer of the compound of formula 15-1.

Initially, Applicants submit that claims 56-58 were previously canceled and not at issue. Although Applicants disagree with the rejection of the independent claims 29 and 49, in order to advance prosecution, the compound of formula 15-1 has been deleted from claims 29-49 by means of the present amendment. It is therefore submitted that the rejection of claims 29 and 49 has been overcome in view of the above and its withdrawal is respectfully requested. Claims 30-35 and 37-38 depend directly or indirectly from claim 29 and should be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 29. Claims 30-35 and 37-38 depend directly or indirectly from claim 49 and should be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 49.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all the claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. J. Keyes', is written over a horizontal line.

William J. Keyes
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